THE NAVAL DRILL.

Important Experiments with the Torpedo.

ELECTRICITY AND GUNPOWDER.

"Large Ships at a Low Rate of Speed Cannot Use the Torpedo Effectively."

TARGET FIRING AT SEA.

Destructive Capacities of the Submarine Projectiles.

Water Thrown to the Mizzentop of the Wabash.

AN INTERESTING SPECTACLE.

Tossing a Barrel as High as the Main Truck.

The Shenandoah Did the Best Work.

GRAND SCRUB RACE.

GULF OF FLORIDA, Feb. 24, 1874.

The great naval function now approaches the end. There is every reason to believe the fleet will sail from here on the 27th, and after stopping at the Tortugas over Sunday will return to Key West. The only exception will be the flagship Wabash, which will make a short trip to Havana. The function will end at Key West about the 10th or 11th of March.

There are very many rumors regarding the destination of the vessels of the fleet. Some assert that the Wabash will return to Europe, others declare that she is going to New York to go out of commission. It is generally believed to be true that the vessels will return to their stations. Of course this does not apply to the Ticonderoga or the Brooklyn, which have just come from South Atlantic stations.

I now resume the story of this cruise:—

THURSDAY, Feb. 19, 1874.

The sixteenth day of the cruise was clear and pleasant, a light breeze from the northeast blowing most of the morning. The Dispatch returned from Havana and the Pinta from Key West. The fleet weighed anchor about the usual hour and stood west in column of vessels, natural order:—

1. Congress.	7. Kansas.
2. Ticonderoga.	8. Dispatch.
3. Canandaigua.	9. Lancaster.
4. Wyoming.	10. Franklin.
5. Colorado.	11. Alaska.
6. Shenandoah.	12. Fortune.

The column was headed north by signal at half-past ten, and at ten minutes of eleven, or when the last vessel of the Second division headed north, the signal "Divisions, by the left flank," was made to the First and Second divisions (or the first eight vessels), and the signal "Division, forward, into line, left oblique," to the Third division. Each vessel of the First and Second divisions came eight points to port and continued onward. The Third division executed the order as has already been described. This brought the vessels into line, heading west:

| W. | → → → → → → → → → → → → |

The general signals, "On the centre divisions form column of divisions, right in front," was made at a quarter past eleven. The right division steered two points to port, the left division eight points to starboard; the centre division kept its course at half speed. This brought the fleet into column of divisions, heading in same direction:—

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The signal, "Fleet by the right flank," twice hoisted, merely changed the direction of the column and headed it toward the eastward, in reverse order.

The general signal, "Fleet by the right flank," converted the fleet into columns by divisions, heading north:—

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The fleet was then signalled, "By the left flank," which brought it into the same form as did the signal made at a quarter-past eleven. This was followed an hour later by the signal, "Fleet by fours, left wheel." This brought the fleet into line of vessels abreast, heading south:—

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↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

This manœuvre was followed at two by the same signal, and the fleet headed east in column of divisions, reverse order. The signal, "Fleet by the left flank," brought the fleet into the following formation, heading north:—

		↓ Wabash.
↓ 4	↓ 8	↓ 12
↓ 3	↓ 7	↓ 11
↓ 2	↓ 6	↓ 10
↓ 1	↓ 5	↓ 9

The next signal, "Fleet, forward into line, left oblique," has been frequently explained, and resulted in bringing the vessels into line, heading north. At thirty-five minutes past two the following signal was hoisted under the Colorado's pennant:—"On the vessel whose distinguishing pennant is over this signal form at half distance." The effect of this was merely to close the vessels up in the same order. The general signal, "From the left in two lines, form order of battle," having been made at a quarter past three, the even-numbered vessels maintained their speed and the others slowed to steerage way, until the former bore from them at an angle of forty-five degrees west the course, when they resumed their speed. The result was this formation, heading north:—

↓ Wabash.
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Signal having been made, "Fleet by the right flank," the fleet took the following formation, heading east:—

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← ← ← ← ← ←

In this formation the fleet anchored at five. The Wachusett and Brooklyn returned during the night and reported the arrival of the Dictator at Key West.

THE SEVENTEENTH DAY'S EXERCISES.

Friday, February 20, the seventeenth day of the cruise, was devoted chiefly to target practice. A target was placed 800 yards to the eastward of the station buoy, which is located in latitude 24 deg. 9 min. north, longitude 82 deg. 9 min. west. The Fortune and Dispatch were stationed respectively to the northward and southward in a line with the buoy. At half-past ten the fleet formed in column of vessels, with the Wabash leading, and passing close to the buoy, heading north, each vessel in succession fired at the target. The target consisted of a square platform of timber, with twenty-four casks lashed to it, above which was a cubical turret of cotton cloth, with three ports painted on each face. The dimensions of each face were ten feet wide by thirteen in height.

After repassing the target three times the vessels drew up in columns of vessels by divisions, and at five o'clock anchored in that formation.

Days of Rest.

SATURDAY, Feb. 21, 1874.

There were no exercises on this day, and the experience of last Saturday did not encourage fishermen. The fleet remained at anchor. The day was clear and pleasant, with a light breeze from the north. The Pinta and Fortune went to Key West.

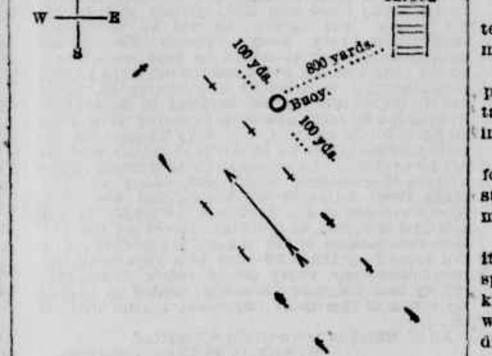
On Sunday, the 22d, the Gettysburg arrived from Key West and sailed for Pensacola at twelve noon.

The usual order was issued regarding the observance of Monday as the anniversary of Washington's birth.

Monday, the 23d, was observed, according to a navy regulation, as the anniversary of Washington's birth. Whenever the 22d of February falls on Sunday it is ordered that the 23d shall be observed. The national colors were displayed at the three mastheads and the peak of all vessels in the fleet, and at noon, although a violent storm of rain was falling, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired by all saluting vessels.

THURSDAY, Feb. 24, 1874.

The Ossipee arrived during the night and was assigned to the First division, taking the Wyoming's place. The day was clear and warm. The fleet weighed anchor by signal at ten A. M., and stood east in column of vessels, the Wabash leading. A target exactly similar to that described in a preceding day's account was stationed 800 yards to the northeast of the buoy. The fleet steamed past the buoy in column of vessels, heading northwest, and discharged as many guns as could be brought to bear on the target during the interval occupied in steaming 100 yards on each side of the buoy, or 200 yards of distance.



The fleet passed the target three times, and at the third passage concentrated the broadsides on the object. It is a fair estimate to say that nine out of every ten shots would have hulled a sloop-of-war. The concentrated broadside of the Wabash was exceptionally good, all the shots striking the water within a space of twenty-five square feet.

The fleet then formed in columns of divisions and anchored at three.

Torpedoes in the Gulf.

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP WABASH, GULF OF FLORIDA, Feb. 25, 1874.

This day had been set apart for torpedo experiments, and the results were altogether quite satisfactory.

The day's experiments have taught all observing officers much that is valuable, and which will be of great advantage in future naval battles. The old fogies got a good shaking up, and possibly lost some of their timidity. Experience is the only school which can teach an officer to be cool when manipulating the electric key which fires a mammoth torpedo. The few slight blunders of the day only served to show to every officer of this vast fleet just what to avoid. The weakness of the fittings of the torpedoes to the spars was a slight mechanical oversight, which will probably never occur again. It was proved clearly, also, that large ships at a low rate of speed cannot use the torpedo offensively, and that, while the torpedo might be a very efficient safeguard against boarding parties or the torpedo boats of the enemy, it cannot be used against a vessel which cannot be overtaken. As an offensive agent it can be employed with ease by a fast steamer, even in mid-ocean. Spars might be rigged along each vessel's side, so that they could be swung into place on the approach of a heavy ram, against whose sides guns would be worthless, and her bow blown off before she could deal the fatal blow. All these things seem possible.

THE ELECTRIC TORPEDO

is certainly a great improvement over the old system of percussion weapons. They are as dangerous to friend as enemy, and if a guy rope carried away or a tackle-block broke the officer of a ship had a perfect assurance that he and not his adversary would go to the bottom. The application of electricity, however, does away with all this, and takes all the responsibility and danger out of the hands of

CARELESS AND TIMID SAILORS

who are employed to put the torpedoes in place, and lodges it with a competent officer who has been trained for that very service at Newport. While the key remains open the torpedo is as harmless as any loaded shell in the magazine. The torpedo officer has the entire system of submarine defence completely under his control, and can explode the terrible weapon just at the desired instant. I saw enough to-day to satisfy me that any of those charges exploded under even a 4,000 tons man-of-war would have sent her to the bottom. I do not believe that the raft used was of any sort of service, only as indicating a spot at which the explosion should occur. It was light, fragile and of insufficient draught or bulk to show the effect of a mighty upheaval of the water which floated it. There should have been a hulk, then the experiments would have been more useful.

The *résumé* of the day's work is given below:—

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 25, 1874.

The weather was clear but intolerably warm, the thermometer ranging among the eighties. A raft, composed of a heavy mass of planks, buoyed by about fifty casks, was set adrift about noon. The vessels were all fitted with torpedo spars, pursuant to a general order issued on last evening, which I send you by telegraph to-night, and they were directed to steam as near the float as possible, exploding the torpedoes as they passed. The torpedoes were of cast iron, attached to spars fifty feet in length, and contained 100 to 125 pounds of powder. The Fortune was ordered to steam at the target under full speed, but the resistance of the water against the spar was so great as to break the torpedo short off and to send it to the bottom of the Gulf. The following is the official report, which is only sent as a supplement to the despatches:—

Vessel.	Number to be Fired.	Number Fired.	Number Missed.
Wabash	3	3	0
Congress	1	1	0
Canandaigua	1	1	0
Ticonderaga	1	1	0
Ossipee	1	1	0
Colorado	1	1	0
Brooklyn	3	1	2
Wachusett	1	1	0
Shenandoah	1	1	0
Lancaster	1	1	0
Franklin	2	1	1
Kansas	1	1	0
Alaska	1	0	1
Fortune	1	0	1
Total	19	14	5

To comment on the firing by the various ships it might be said briefly that the greatest execution was done by the Shenandoah, the highest column of water was thrown by the Colorado, and the most picturesque water grotto took shape from the explosion by the Brooklyn's torpedo.

DISCOUNTING AN EARTHQUAKE.

The Wabash, Lieutenant Bradford torpedo officer, exploded only one of her three torpedoes on the first circle. It was the one rigged on the starboard quarter. I was standing in the mizzen top with several officers of the ship, and we were all drenched. The sensation was very unpleasant—it was something decidedly unearthly. The good ship Wabash trembled in every timber. The shock was far greater than a double broadside from both tiers of guns. After all the vessels had passed the Wabash returned again to the fray, and the torpedoes on the bow and abeam were exploded. A solid column of water was in each instance thrown higher than the top of the mainmast. Tons of water descended on the deck and on the awnings which had been spread over the poop deck. It is very doubtful whether such shocks do vessels of the Wabash's size any good.

The Congress, whose torpedo officer was Lieutenant Commander Sampson, fired her charge at the proper moment, directly under the raft; but, owing to the lateral explosion, although the raft was lifted high into the air, it was not destroyed.

The Ticonderoga's torpedo, under charge of Lieutenant Houston, was exploded too soon. The spar was not under the raft, and no effect was observable.

The Canandaigua, on account of some derangement of the galvanic current, could not explode her torpedo on first passing the raft; but Lieutenant De Blois repaired the faulty spot and discharged his torpedo at the fragment of a raft which then remained.

The Ossipee had the same ill fortune at first; but Lieutenant Rich made amends afterward by rigging out his torpedo a second time and exploding it in the most approved style.

The Colorado's torpedo apparatus, in charge of Lieutenant Longnecker, was in perfect working order. A solid column of water rose like one of Cleopatra's needles to a height of fully 350 feet, and seemed to settle right back into the hole which it left, without dissolving into spray as was generally noticeable. The explosion sadly deranged the raft, and the spar became entangled with it to such an extent as to require cutting loose.

The Brooklyn, whose commander has lately been at the head of the torpedo school, did the work assigned it in a very neat, shipshape way. There were no delays. Lieutenant De Long manipulated the electric key, and although the raft was in tow of the Colorado at the time, discharged his torpedo at the exact spot and at the proper moment. Only one of her three torpedoes was fired.

The torpedo on the Wachusett, in charge of Lieutenant Cornwell, tossed a barrel as high as the mainmast. Fortunately it fell outboard.

The Kansas was a general favorite and great expectations, only partially realized, were entertained of her. Lieutenant Stone did well, arriving so late in the line.

The Lancaster, after waiting her chance, steamed for the raft and exploded her torpedo in good style. Lieutenant Newell had charge of the ceremony.

The Alaska steamed too close to the raft, so that it passed between the torpedo (at the end of the spar) and the side of the vessel. Lieutenant Perkins stood by the electric key, but the connection was either broken or he deemed it undesirable to discharge the torpedo. It was not exploded.

The Shenandoah, all things considered, did the greatest execution. Lieutenant Commander Evans was fortunate in getting close enough, without being too near, and the whole of one side of the raft was blown to fragments.

The Franklin was not so fortunate. Lieutenant Parker did not get close enough to damage the raft.

The Fortune, whose torpedo was in charge of her courteous commandant, Lieutenant Commander Green, was ordered to steam at full speed. This she did, but the resistance of the water was so great that the torpedo was broken off from the spar, and, consequently, was not discharged.

The Last Evolutions.

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP WABASH, GULF OF FLORIDA, Feb. 26, 1874.

This is the twenty-third day of the cruise. The weather is clear and mild. The fleet weighed anchor at half-past ten and stood east in columns of vessels by divisions, natural order:—

← ← ← ←
· ← Wabash.
← ← ← ←
← ← ← ←

The signal, "Guide ship N. E.," was made at eleven, after which, at twelve, the fleet was formed into column of vessels, heading north; then, at twenty minutes to one, by the left flank into line, abreast, heading west. The flagship displayed No. 256 at twenty minutes to two—"From the centre division of the fleet form echelon of divisions." The result was:—

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The First and Third divisions, at ten minutes past two, were ordered to form echelon of vessels, which gave the fleet the form of a section of a truncated cone. Then the entire fleet formed into echelon on No. 6 as a centre, and at three o'clock all were signalled to make the best of their way to the anchorage.

A GRAND SCRUB RACE

ensued. The fleet was entirely unprepared for any such signal, and as they had only been steaming about four knots, only a portion of the fires were lighted. None of the vessels, therefore, developed their full rate of speed. The Canandaigua and Alaska soon showed up in front, both making about seven and a-half knots. The little Kansas, carrying the heavy set of spars which will one day capsize her, was among the few closely behind the Alaska. On the latter vessel every man was sent aft to bring her down by the stern, and her two smokestacks belched forth columns of smoke which made the heavens black. The large ships, unprepared, as I said, for this race, came quietly along at about six knots, the poor Shenandoah bringing up the rear. This is the last day's evolutions here, and we all say, gladly, "Florida Bay, farewell!"

FUTURE NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.

What Our War Vessels Lack, and What Those of Other Nations Possess—An Interview with the Fleet Engineer of the North Atlantic Squadron.

UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP WABASH, GULF OF FLORIDA, Feb. 26, 1874.

I called on Fleet Engineer Robie, who is in charge of the machinery in all the vessels in this large fleet, and who partially superintended the construction of the machinery of the famous iron-clad Dictator. The following interview took place:—

CORRESPONDENT—I desire to obtain your views respecting the improvements, both in naval architecture and in machinery, which are required to place our war vessels on a par with those of other nations in order to prepare our country for the naval warfare of the future. What is the first great requisite?

GIVE US MORE REVOLUTIONS.

Fleet Engineer ROBIE—Speed. It became evident, soon after the beginning of these exercises in the Gulf of Florida, that the maximum rate of speed attainable by the vessels of our navy now here, acting together, was even less than six knots per hour. It is probable that, under favorable circumstances, two or more of the vessels might have been driven up to ten knots; but for the great majority six knots was the maximum steaming capacity against a moderate head wind and over a smooth sea.

AESOP'S TORTOISE ECLIPSED.

CORRESPONDENT—How does this rate of speed compare with that of the vessels of other navies?

Fleet Engineer ROBIE—It is a mortifying truth that, acting in concert, these vessels of our navy would not be capable of making one-half the speed under steam which is regarded as absolutely necessary for the war vessels of every other nation. Such a grave and startling defect is enough to condemn them at once for naval purposes.

CAN NEITHER FIGHT NOR RETREAT.

CORRESPONDENT—How is this incapacity most apparent?

Fleet Engineer ROBIE—Principally in the fact that they can neither overtake an inferior nor escape from a superior enemy in case of necessity. The condition of the great majority of our wooden vessels fitted with this auxiliary steam power, when opposed to the swift war steamers of modern times, is very little better than that of the Congress and Cumberland when attacked by the ram Merrimac in Hampton Roads.

IRON-CLADS MUST BE FAST.

CORRESPONDENT—You regard speed as of more importance than iron plating?

Fleet Engineer ROBIE—If you will allow me to qualify my answer I shall say, emphatically, yes. A decided change in the construction of our wooden ships would be necessary. Unless iron-clads are of the monitor pattern the approved guns of the present time can throw shot through the heaviest plating that can be used. Fifteen-inch guns can be made to throw shot through the sides of any broadside iron-clad that can be floated. The weak features of our vessels, aside from inadequate steam power and the vast amount of useless rigging with which they are encumbered, are—first, the utter absence of guns which can be trained to fire either directly ahead or astern.

IN FOLLOWING AN ENEMY

it should be possible to fire the heaviest guns at her without changing direction or losing time by slowing down. The construction of the propeller well in the stern for a hoisting screw also does away with all possibility of using heavy guns that could be fired directly astern, and it is an element of weakness, as the screw depends on its remaining uninjured for its support. The engines and boilers in our vessels here also require nearly

TWICE THE QUANTITY OF COAL

to develop an indicated horse power which would be necessary to produce the same effect if they possessed the improved machinery which is now being so generally adopted in merchant steamers and also in the Tennessee and new vessels building for our navy. The Wabash now burns forty tons of coal per day to do work which new machinery would do with twenty tons. Then I would have our naval vessels so constructed that they could be effectively used as rams whenever an opportunity offered, and with a speed of at least sixteen knots per hour under steam alone, sail power reduced so as to offer the least possible resistance when steam is used; but two masts in any ship, and those to be made of iron or steel, hollow for ventilation and telescopic; a few heavy guns of the greatest attainable range, so placed that at least one of them could be trained to fire directly ahead and another directly astern. I am confident our vessels would prove more effective, even without any iron plating, than those now possessed by any foreign Power. There is very much more which could be said on this subject, but I think that I have sketched out the chief faults of our present slow wooden navy.

THE INTERNATIONAL RIFLE MATCH.

The Programme Proposed by the Irish Riflemen—Explanatory Letter from Mr. Arthur B. Leech, of Dublin—The Action Taken by the Amateur Rifle Club of New York.

The Amateur Rifle Club of New York, composed of members of the National Rifle Association, who have accepted the challenge of the Irish Rifle Association of Dublin, to shoot a match in the United States in the autumn of this year, recently received a letter from Mr. Arthur B. Leech, of Dublin, containing the programme of the proposed meeting on behalf of the Irish riflemen, both which are herewith annexed. This programme, it will be seen, limits the teams to not less than four or more than eight men each; but this provision is not wholly acceptable. The time set down is between the 15th of September and the 15th of October next.

It must be understood that the Amateur Rifle Club will not select its own members to shoot against the Irish team as representative American riflemen, but that a circular will soon be issued to the "crack shots" of the country, and from those who enlist in the movement a team will be selected to meet the visiting gentlemen.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Amateur Rifle Club, called to consider the submitted programme, the following resolution was passed:—

Resolved, That the programme, as at present proposed by Mr. Arthur B. Leech, is acceptable to the Executive Committee, with the exception of the first paragraph, which relates to the number of men of which the teams shall consist, and that it is the sense of this committee that this paragraph should be amended so as to read, "that the teams shall consist of not more than eight nor less than six men."

A committee was elected at this meeting to make all the necessary arrangements to successfully carry out the proposed match.

MR. LEECH'S LETTER.

OFFICES IRISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION, DUBLIN, 110 GRAFTON STREET, Feb. 14, 1874.

DEAR SIR—I beg to announce to you that at a meeting of the Council of the Irish Rifle Association held here on Tuesday last, 10th inst., I submitted a programme of the proposed international rifle match between Ireland and America for the consideration of the Council, which I am happy to announce to you has been agreed upon and adopted by the Council in the form which I now have the pleasure to send you in duplicate.

You will please to observe that the Council acting on the suggestion contained in your letter of the 20th December, 1873, have omitted the 1,100 yards range mentioned in my original challenge.

With respect to the team you will also see I reserve the right of limiting it to not less than four men or more than eight. This is unavoidable, as you will no doubt see, because it is impossible at the present time to count with certainty on the exact number of the team which I can bring with me or who could take part in the match. I need not dwell upon the variety of possible accidental circumstances that render it impossible for me to name definitely a larger number than four, although I shall endeavor to increase it, and hope that the climate of America, notwithstanding our sea sickness, will enable us to shoot with sufficient precision to make the match interesting.

It does not occur to me that I need at present dwell upon any other portion of the programme, which varies so little from the original challenge, save with reference to the period of the year; no other time would suit us. We have our meeting in Dublin in May or June, and at Wimbledon from the 11th of July to the end of that month, and the August game shooting also interferes; thus it is that I suggest any time between September 15 and October 15 for the match, and would be glad to hear further from you as to the date you would consider best.

Believe me, dear sir, yours most truly,

ARTHUR B. LEECH.

GEORGE W. WINGATE, Esq., Secretary National Rifle Association of America, New York.

PROGRAMME.

Programme of the International Rifle Match between the riflemen of the United States of America and the riflemen of Ireland, represented by a team to be chosen from the members of the "Irish Rifle Association," to take place in America not sooner than the 15th of September, or later than the 15th of October, 1874, on the following terms, viz.:—

Team.—Each team to consist of not more than eight or less than four men, at the option of the Irish, whose decision will be declared on their arrival at New York. The American team to be composed exclusively of riflemen born in the United States; the Irish team to consist of men qualified to shoot in the Irish Eight at Wimbledon.

Rifles.—Any, not exceeding ten pounds weight; minimum pull of trigger, three pounds; the Americans to shoot with rifles of *bona fide* American manufacture, the Irish to shoot with rifles manufactured by Messrs. John Rigby & Co., of Dublin.

Sights, Ammunition, Targets and Marking—To be according to printed regulations in force at Wimbledon, 1873.

Ranges.—Eight hundred yards, nine hundred yards and one thousand yards.

Number of Shots.—Fifteen at each range by each competitor.

Previous Practice.—The Irish team to be allowed use of the range for practice on at least two days before the match.

Position—Any; no artificial rest to be used either for the rifle or person of the shooter.

Mr. Leech, on behalf of the Irish team, guarantees to deposit on his arrival at New York, with the National Rifle Association of America, the sum of £100 sterling, a like sum to be deposited by the American team, this sum of £200 to be handed over to the Captain for division among the members of the winning team.

Targets, range and accessories for carrying out the match to devolve on the Americans; the Americans to choose a referee to act for their team. Mr. Leech will act in the capacity of referee for the Irish team. The two referees shall mutually select an umpire, to whom in case of difference of opinion they shall refer, and whose decision shall be final.

The terms of the match to be signed by ———, on behalf of America, with the authority of the American National Rifle Association, and by Arthur Blennerhasset Leech, on behalf of the Irish team.

Duplicate copies of this programme to be exchanged, and all necessary arrangements completed on or before the 1st day of June, 1874.

Should either team fail to make an appearance on the day and hour agreed upon for the match the team then present may claim the championship and stakes.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SPHINX.

Is General Grant a Candidate for a Third Term as Chief Magistrate of the Nation?—Reasons for the Opinion That He Is Preparing to Withdraw from the Field in 1876—A New Standard Bearer for the Republican Party.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1874.

Is General Grant a candidate for another Presidential term? Is he the favorite of the rank or file of the republican party for the Presidential succession? Will he or some new man be the republican standard bearer in 1876? and if some new man, will the party be able to carry the country? The day of the month forcibly recalls these questions and invites us to their consideration.

It is the 4th of March. This day, one brief year ago, we had the memorable event of President Grant's second inauguration. The day was made memorable, first, as the coldest day of the winter and the coldest and windiest 4th of March ever known in Washington; second, from the unusual numbers of military and civic societies gathered here from all sections of the Union, but mainly as establishing General Grant and the republican party for four years more in power, and without danger of any serious opposition in the contest for the Presidential succession. A year has passed. The 4th of March is again upon us, bright, warm and balmy as a morning in June; but politically it is overcast, and baffling and changeable winds indicate a gathering disturbance of the elements that may end in a hurricane. It is no longer considered certain that the republican party will win

THE BATTLE FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

It is not certain that General Grant will be nominated for another term as the republican candidate. It is not known that he aspires to or desires another term. The republican leaders who expect to supersede him have their misgivings touching his designs; the republican office-holders who wish his continuance in office for their own protection rest their hopes upon his commanding popularity. But neither of these parties have anything better than inferences and conjectures to support their opinions. Upon the main question on this controversy, "Is General Grant looking forward for another Presidential term?" much may be said in support of the opinion that, while he would accept a nomination for another term from the Republican National Convention, he is not engineering for another term, and will not depart from the even tenor of his way to secure it.

WISDOM OF GRANT'S RETICENCE.

It will be remembered that during the last summer he was approached by various parties upon this subject, and that the only expression that could be elicited from him in the matter was this—that "it would be time enough to decline a nomination when it was offered him; and that it would be folly to decline it in advance." He realizes the strength of his position in holding in reserve a definite answer upon this point. If it were distinctly understood now that he is not, and will not, be a candidate for another term, the intrigues of rival candidates and cliques of the republican camp for the Presidential succession would speedily involve the President in their squabbles for the support of the administration, and they would keep him constantly in hot water. Now, while General Grant holds in reserve the acceptance or declination of a nomination for another term, he holds all the Presidential aspirants of the republican party well in hand and continues the recognized master of the situation. Jackson maintained the same position, after proclaiming himself out of the contest for a third term, in bringing forward Van Buren as his choice for the succession. General Grant is sensible of the fact that he could not safely undertake to follow the example of Jackson, and he has no desire to try the experiment. It does not follow, however, that in declining to decline another renomination in advance of the appointed time he is a candidate for another term. On the contrary, from the character of the man and his acts, and from certain facts and circumstances, it may be fairly assumed that General Grant is preparing to retire from the White House at the expiration of his present term of office.

A ROBUST SPHINX IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

To the politicians General Grant is a riddle, a sphinx, a mystery which they cannot solve. Yet the only mystery about him is that simplicity and directness of purpose which, in the honest Dr. Franklin as our Minister to France, was a puzzle to the shrewdest professional diplomats of Europe. General Grant at this time appears in excellent condition. He looks robust, strong, self-possessed and the most contented man in Washington. With the recommendations of his annual Message to Congress he appears to have dismissed from his mind all the cares of State. The responsibilities involved are with Congress, and there he leaves them. In his appointments to office he gives himself little trouble to the claims of this clique, that clique or the other. He selects his man and abides the consequences of his rejection or confirmation. He likes the soldier; he likes the returning Confederate soldier, Mosby, for instance. He has a generous sympathy for the struggling, poverty stricken people of the South. He desires to fulfil his obligations to the republican party; he desires to act in harmony with the two houses of Congress; but he is resolved to get on as quietly as possible, and he will not be troubled with their family jars if he can help himself.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S HABITS.

He enjoys life and the relaxation from the duties of his office. He likes a jaunt on a short notice to West Point, New Haven, Richmond or Denver. He likes a concert, a ball or a wedding, an agricultural fair or a meeting of the Geographical Society. He is eminently a social and sociable man, though as reticent as an oracle. He receives his friends with the unpretending cordiality of a granger. He enjoys a good dinner, and his cigar is his constant companion. In the morning he goes through his appointed work with a strict devotion to business, but does not care to work in a hurry. In the afternoon he drives his span of shining blacks or his glistening bays, four-in-hand, with the calm enjoyment and self-possession of an old stager from the Sierra Nevada. From small beginnings, by good management he has become a thrifty and prosperous man in the first duty of providing for a rainy day. The whole bent of his mind is evidently directed, not to the party tactics and strategy required for a third term, but to the solid comforts of private life. He is not a politician; his habits and inclinations run in a different channel. He evidently does not regard the official drudgeries of the White House as more desirable than the substantial liberties of the private station. He likes Washington, and is building himself here a comfortable house, to which, "they say," he expects to retire at the expiration of his present term. He says nothing, but is as diligently preparing for a retirement in 1877 as if the question were settled.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE IN 1876.

The republican chiefs in Congress appear to entertain hardly a doubt that General Grant will be out of the field in 1876. They expect still to maintain the ideality of the administration with the party; they expect the office-holders and all the retainers of the administration to support the republican ticket in 1876. They say that the republican standard bearer in that campaign will be a new man, but that he will represent the principles and measures of the administration as the party platform. This may or may not prove a true prophecy, but from all the facts before us and all the signs of the times General Grant will be out of the field in 1876 and New York may furnish his successor. It is only upon this theory and the understanding, if you please, between the high contracting parties, that we can account, on the one hand, for the general desire of the republican leaders in Congress to maintain the good will of General Grant, and on the other hand, for his comparatively independent course since the meeting of Congress and his apparent indifference to the troubles or the proceedings of the two houses on any of the great questions of the day. They still depend upon him to maintain the integrity and unity of their party for the coming campaign; but he has no further favors to ask at their hands. It is thought from last year's agitation of the subject through the public press and the general public sentiment thus disclosed on the subject that a third term experiment cannot be safely attempted, and that a new ticket can be better adapted even than General Grant to a new condition of things. At all events, the republican leaders have virtually resolved upon this adhesion to the examples of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson as the true course for the centennial year of American independence.

THE LEGISLATIVE LENT.

The Retrenchment Fever of Congress and the Tribulations of the Lobby—"No Song, No Supper"—Sorrowful, but Still Hopeful.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1874.

On the 4th of March a year ago a multitude which no man could number swarmed in the Capitol, the hotels and streets of Washington, drawn here to assist in the second inauguration of President Grant. Thousands of office-seekers and legions of lobby jobbers were here with their numberless schemes for gaining a share in the rich harvest of the public plunder. And what a prospect there was for another full term of four years for fat jobs from the legislation of the all-powerful and liberal republican party, with none to call its power to account! But what a change a single year has brought about! Washington in the midst of a long session was never so dull, "stale, flat and unprofitable" as it is now. To be sure, we are in the midst of our Lenten fastings and prayer. Our feastings and dancings are suspended, the monotonous and melancholy order of an old Puritan village reigns on Pennsylvania avenue, but the dulness in the side shows of the two houses and the sorrows of the lobby are so unusual in the fourth month of a long session that they are positively distressing to the old campaigner.

THE ECONOMIC SPASM.

The retrenchment fever which has seized upon Congress spoils everything. It is a low, wasting fever, which shows hardly an hour of intermission to the sufferers from day to day. They have fits of raving and tearing on economy, which sometimes keep them dancing and roaring by the hour; but when these spasms are over the patient relapses into a drowsy stupidity, from which he can be roused only by a motion to adjourn. Dropping the figure, Congress is retrenching, lopping off and cutting down expenditures right and left and right or wrong, and the lobby is on short rations. The two houses are

ON THEIR GOOD BEHAVIOR

and the lobby stands back. The game is frightened and the hunters are lying low. The lobby is watching and waiting, and is not disposed to waste its ammunition at long range. No railway land grabbers, nor steamship or telegraph subsidy engineers, nor robbers of Indians, nor would-be contractors for canals or harbor and river improvements are giving bountiful suppers or keeping open house to all comers, because these things this session do not promise to pay.

The reaction from the Crédit Mobilier scandal and "back pay grab" of the last session has been so sweeping as to be ridiculous. Our demoralized republican lawmakers, frightened out of their wits by the last fall elections, realize only the necessity of retrenchment, good or bad, right or wrong. They will cut down the army, and trust to luck for the protection of our frontier settlers against the Indians; they will cut down the navy, if we have to purchase peace for the future at any price; they will suspend the improvement on rivers and harbors, though the saving of a million this year may require the expenditure of five millions next year; they will cut down the force and the petty salaries of the half-starved clerks of the executive departments to save a few thousand dollars; they will do anything and everything for retrenchment, so that we may have a good record to show the dear people in the elections of next autumn for the Forty-fourth Congress.

THE TREASURY DEFICIT.

The late panic has cut down the resources of the Treasury. It is fifty-two millions short. It is getting shorter from day to day. We will do all we can to save it by retrenchment, and the deficit must be supplied by taxes. There's the rub. To make these taxes as light as possible for these coming Congressional elections, these gentlemen of the lobby must stand back and bide their time. When the breeze of these Congressional elections shall have blown over and the republican party is all right again for two years more we will reopen the Treasury and scatter its money freely all over the land, for this humbug of retrenchment will have served its turn.

FASTING THIS YEAR, FEASTING THE NEXT.

This, then, is the Congress of fasting and penance and prayer; but the next, if republican, will be one of feasting and full enjoyment, and "good times" will be with us again, and will be kept up till after the national and Presidential jubilee of 1876. This is the republican programme. This is a session of retrenchment and reform. The lobby must wait. We can do nothing this year for the Northern Pacific or the Southern Pacific railroads; for steamships or ocean telegraphs, for canals, rivers or harbors, or levees, or anything outside the current necessities of the government. Even cheap transportation must wait a little longer; for it will cost money and Mr. Richardson has no money to spare. We expect to save some twenty millions in our annual and incidental appropriation bills, and yet we shall have a deficiency of twenty or thirty millions to provide for. Private claim bills will swallow up some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and other extras will come in and reduce our supplies, and so the gentlemen of the lobby, who are interested in large jobs, calling for heavy grants of lands, bonds, or money, must wait till next December. So much for the Crédit Mobilier scandal and the "back pay grab" and the alleged Senatorial election briberies and corruptions of the last Congress. They have resulted, from the excited wrath of the people, in a reaction in this Congress for retrenchment and reform which is too violent to last long, and which may be compared to the trick of the knowing Dutchman who got down from his high horse only to get on better.

ART MATTERS.

Among the Studios.

No class of the community has felt more severely the consequences of the commercial panic of last year than the artists. During the past season the studios have been comparatively deserted, and even where sales of pictures have been effected they have brought little profit. The public only buy art works in prosperous times, and only a few wealthy patrons have been able to resist the awful monetary crash which tightened every purse string. The studio buildings look quite deserted, though the artists are beginning to brighten up under the influence of the dawning spring and are hard at work getting ready for the Academy exhibition. Adversity seems to have taught the brotherhood wisdom, and the petty jealousies which, for some seasons, have prevented a really representative exhibition of American art, are to be laid aside for the common good. Nothing but friendship and good will are to reign hereafter. The result of this happy truce is visible in the number of important works on the various easels which are intended for the Academy. Every one is resolved to do his best and lend his most important work of the year to the Spring Exhibition, which promises to be thoroughly representative. This resolution of the artists is a proof of good sense and a healthy sign that a proper *esprit de corps* is growing up in the profession. There was much selfishness in the refusal by some of the more successful painters to send their best pictures to the Academy exhibition, and, as we naturally look for something more than mere money-making, worldly wisdom in an artist, we are glad that this cause of complaint has been removed. As the Academy exhibitions grow in importance the popularity of native art work will increase. The best way to check the growing tendency among art patrons of importing their pictures from Europe will be to demonstrate clearly that in some paths of art at least work as good in quality as the majority of the pictures brought to this country can be produced by native brushes. Until the public have been thoroughly convinced that this can be done—and there is no reason why it should not—purchasers will be prejudiced in favor of foreign works, and the studios will remain as lonely and neglected as they are to-day.

Some of the artists give proof of their earnest desire to merit the patronage of the public by close and conscientious work. Among these James M. Hart holds an honorable place. The success of his "Coming Out of the Shade" has turned his attention to landscape and cattle subjects, which he endows with deep poetic feeling, the more effective because the scenes are simple and natural, without any straining after claptrap effect. Mr. Hart wisely thinks that there is more poetry in nature than he can manufacture, and tries only to transfer the spirit of passages in nature that have impressed him by their beauty, and hence his success. "At Rest—Evening" is the title of a work now on his easel. It represents a group of cattle in the foreground of a landscape, reposing in the grateful cool of the evening. The sun has just sunk below the horizon and the sky is suffused with a warm glow which is very charming. The composition of the picture is careful and well balanced.

General Sheridan, or, as the people love to call him, "Gallant Phil" Sheridan, has been sitting for his portrait to Constant Meyer, who just got through with work before the Sioux troubles called General Sheridan to the frontier. The portrait is half length, and is an excellent likeness. Mr. Meyer's contribution to the Academy will be a touching composition, entitled "The Orphans' Morning Hymn." Two girls in an oratory are intoning their orisons, and the morning rays falling on their handsome faces cast a halo over them. The feeling of the scene is very exquisite.

The poetry that dwells in curious gabled old manor houses hid away among trees has quite fascinated T. A. Smith, and he paints them so as to impart to others some of the feelings which these antiquated old houses call up in himself. Two companion pictures present to us "The Old Manor House," in the days of its prosperity, in calm evening glow of the summer tide, and when the winter snows had given to the curious old gables a fantastic appearance in cool wintry moonlight. Both effects are well and happily rendered.

RESCUED FROM DROWNING.

As the brig William Brae was being towed out of the East River yesterday one of her sailors fell overboard while taking in the fenders, and but for the timely aid of Captain Lewis, of the steam tug Uncle Abe, would have drowned. Captain Lewis picked him up and put him on board the vessel again.